

**Amendments to the Claims:**

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A multimedia method for use with a screen-based host provided with information processing and I/O facilities, and for interacting with an item, the method comprising:

receiving identity information from the item at the host, in response to proximity conditions between the host and the item,

presenting to a user an icon that is representative of the item and an associated service field at the host in response to the identity information, the icon being movable within the service field based on actions by the user to facilitate interaction with the service field, and

transmitting information based on the interaction from the host to the item, for storage at the item.

5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, comprising enabling the user to activate information processing operations at the host related to the associated service field.

6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, comprising transmitting host-generated results related to the associated service field during such proximity conditions to the item.

7-11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4, including identifying the host to the item in response to proximity conditions between the host and the item.

13-15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A multimedia method for use with a screen-based host system provided with information processing and I/O facilities, and for interacting with an item, the method comprising:

receiving identity information from the item at the host system, in response to proximity conditions between the host system and the item,

selecting an icon that is representative of the item and an application program based on the identity information, the application program including one of an information processing program and an entertainment program,

executing the application program at the host system,

varying location of the icon within a service field of the application based on actions of a user to facilitate interaction with the application program, and

transmitting information from the application program to the item based on the interaction, for storage at the item.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein the application program is configured to produce ~~an iconized representation of the item at the host system~~ the icon in response to the identity information.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the application program includes at least one of: a video game; an audio story; and a diary.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the application program includes at least one of: a video game; an audio story; and a diary.

20. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the information that is transmitted to the item includes information particular to a user of the item.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the information that is transmitted to the item includes a state of the application program.

22. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein the identity information is substantially unique to the item, and the icon is correspondingly substantially unique to the item.

23. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein one or more characteristics of the icon is user definable.

24. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein the icon corresponds to a shape of the item.

25. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein one or more characteristics of the icon is user definable.

26. (New) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium that, when executed by a screen-based host system, causes the host system to:

receive identity information from an item in response to proximity conditions between the host system and the item,

present an icon representative of the item and a service field of an application based on the identity information,

varying location of the icon within the service field based on actions of a user to facilitate interaction with the application, and

transmit information for storage at the item based on the interaction.

27. (New) The computer program of Claim 26, wherein the information that is transmitted includes a state of the application.

28. (New) The computer program of Claim 26, wherein one or more of the characteristics of the icon are user-definable.

29. (New) The computer program of Claim 26, wherein the icon corresponds to a shape of the item.

30. (New) The computer program of Claim 26, wherein the icon is an animated icon.

31. (New) The computer program of Claim 26, wherein the application program is configured to provide the icon based on the identity information.